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## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**The subterranean shoots of *Oxalis violacea* (WITH PLATE XII).**—Though one of the commonest plants in the prairie states the violet wood-sorrel is usually gathered so early in the season that several interesting features are not commonly represented in herbaria. While enjoying a few days in looking at the rich flora about Mount Carmel, Ill., in company with Dr. Schneck, a fortnight since, I succeeded for the first time in getting specimens of this species, with the subterranean bulbiferous shoots that are characteristic of the section to which it belongs; and the subsequent collection of a fine lot of plants in the same condition near St. Louis by Mr. Pammel enables me to figure the plant for the GAZETTE.

In the specimens collected the watery tap-root, which is represented in occasional herbarium specimens, but is not very often collected, although it is a normal part of the plant from this time on, was finely developed, in some instances reaching a length of two inches and a diameter of over half an inch. From the withered bulb just above this protruded three to nine fleshy white runners one or two millimeters in diameter, and in some cases considerably over two inches long, remotely scaly below, the rather acute apex somewhat enlarged, and with crowded scales, the inner very thick and yellow, forming the young bulb of next season. The runners appear to curve downward at first, afterward bending upward at the apex.

References to the literature of the subject, especially with respect to other species, are given in my biological notes on the genus (*Memoirs Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* iv, 92). WILLIAM TRELEASE, *St. Louis, Mo.*

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XII.—*Oxalis Violacea* L. 1. Short-styled plant, showing the watery tap root and bulbiferous shoots, natural size. 2. Longitudinal section through the end of a runner,  $\times 10$ . 3. Seed,  $\times 30$ .

***Diervilla rivularis*, n. sp.**—Shrub two to five feet high; whole plant hirsutely pubescent: branchlets nearly terete: leaves subsessile, ovate or oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, unequally and obtusely serrulate, pale beneath: flowers lemon yellow, larger than those of *D. sessilifolia*, in three to six or more axillary cymes, these often floriferous: calyx-lobes lanceolate-subulate, about as long as the attenuate neck of the carpel: corolla slightly bilabiate.—First collected in flower July 6, 1880, on the banks of "Lula Falls," Lookout Mountain, a few miles across the Tennessee line in Georgia. It grows close to the water's edge. I have received this spring from Kelsey brothers, Highlands, N. C., the genuine *D. sessilifolia* Buckl., which now flowers in my garden; but it is glabrous throughout, with smaller, more regular flowers, which are sulphur or greenish yellow. *D. rivularis* is a handsomer plant.—A. GATTINGER, M. D., *Nashville, Tenn.*